

# Valley The Star

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## Mayor Garcetti celebrates new program

Monarchs welcome Mayor Eric Garcetti as he ushers in the new Work Force program hosted at Valley.



PHOTO BY/ SOLOMON SMITH  
MAYOR CONGRATULATES STUDENTS-Mayor Eric Garcetti speaks to faculty, students, alumni and special guests about the importance of working toward a more unified community.

By JAMIE GARCIA  
AND LON DOMINGUEZ  
STAFF WRITERS

Crowds gathered Friday on the first floor of the Administration & Career Advancement Building to celebrate The City of Los Angeles Workforce Strategy Center's grand opening attended by Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti who cut the ribbon at the ceremony and welcomed Angelenos. "We need to provide the next generation with access to training and

other support services to fulfill their potential in the workplace," says Garcetti. "That's what our first Workforce Strategy Center will do." In addition to Mayor Garcetti other prominent community members were also in attendance to praise the opening of the center included Valley President Erika Endrijonas, California Chancellor of Community Colleges Eloy Oakley, LACCD Board of Trustees President Sydney Kamlager, as well as L.A. city councilmembers Paul Krekorian and Monica Rodriguez.

The speakers also took the opportunity to make subtle jabs at President Donald Trump's immigration stance. In referring to immigrant applicants, Chancellor Oakley said, "We are going to dedicate every single ounce of effort to protecting you, to ensure that you are welcomed, that there is nothing that goes on Washington D.C. that will prevent you from the opportunities that you deserve." The Workforce Strategy Center is the only place in the Los Angeles area that is in partnership with

the entire LA Workforce department. The center's doors are opened to anyone who is seeking employment and offers four free programs as a quick path to a professional career. The programs offered are the Metro Bridge Academy, Biotech Academy, Manufacturing Academy and LA Fellows. Each one offers short term training in the field that the student is pursuing. After completion of the training, the participants are offered an interview with one of the employers for job placement in the field. The Metro Bridge pro-

gram is opened to individuals who are interested in becoming bus operators. The training lasts four weeks and participants receive hands-on experience behind the wheel of a bus on campus. Every participant that completes the training is guaranteed an interview and about 71% of the participants are hired. "I went through the Bridge Program, now I'm a full-time bus operator and I have a better quality of life," said Muhammad Ahmad, who has been with Metro for 2 years. "I see a

see **Work Force p.2**

## Slow start for ASU

Associated Student Union struggles to fill key posts.

By SOLOMON SMITH  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

As the new semester begins, the leadership of the Associated Student Union remains mostly empty with no president or vice-president and only five filled positions. Joseph Katona is a quiet-spoken engineering major in his last year here at Valley, who has assumed a lot of responsibility. He is currently the treasurer for the ASU, third from the top in the hierarchy of the executive officers. None of the positions above him are filled making him the acting president of the ASU.

*"I would take over the president position and drop the treasurer position if they would let me."*

*-Joseph Katona*

When asked how he felt about having to wear so many hats Katona said, "I like it. I like keeping myself busy I like going out and doing stuff, it's just something I enjoy." According to Katona many of the candidates who were elected are no longer eligible because of a lack of credits. All prospective officers are given a packet of the rules when running for their respective position and many of the candidates chose to ignore some of those rules and were subsequently made ineligible. This leaves the ASU in an unfortunate position as they. In the last few years, there has been a persistent problem getting positions filled as student interest in governing their own student body has been declining. Some of these positions are vital to the function of an executive board. Among the top empty positions are the president, vice-president, ICC Senate representatives, secretary, and others for a total of ten vacant positions—out of fifteen. As of now, there are five officers on the ASU doing the job of fifteen people; Katona as interim president. Last year's ASU board members were also run ragged at the start of the semester as the workload was spread between the few elected personnel. This year's crop of new leaders is optimistic.

See **ASU p.2**

## Chancellor stands by LACCD Dreamers

Los Angeles Community College leadership expressed support for Dreamers affected by the DACA decision.



PHOTO BY / MIKEY WALLEY  
MASS PROTESTS- Trump's decision on DACA sparks demonstrations in Los Angeles and across the country as Dreamers are left unsure about their status.

By LUIS ROMERO AND  
KARINA GUTIERREZ  
STAFF WRITERS

The Chancellor of the Los Angeles Community College District issued a statement of solidarity standing with the Dreamers affected by the Trump administration's revocation of DACA earlier this month.

The LACCD is home to about 11,000 undocumented students on nine campuses throughout Los Angeles County. Chancellor Francisco Rodriguez sent an email in support and to ease the fears among immigrant students. "Stay enrolled in school and, if working, maintain your employment," the email read. "Do nothing to jeopardize your current status."

The chancellor's statement, however, did not completely allay Valley students' concerns about what this could mean for them. "It gave me the opportunity to get an education (DACA) something that my parents didn't get a chance to have back at home," said Valley student Valerie Ramirez, "With this deci-

sion that was made it's as if my limbs were cut off." Rodriguez and Board President Sydney Kamlager-Dove also sent a letter to congressional leaders, imploring them to pass the DREAM Act, or give Dreamers a more permanent solution. The DACA program protected many undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States

as children and allowed them to receive a renewable two-year period of deferment from deportation as well as eligibility for a work permit. Approximately 800,000 such young people (referred to as "Dreamers" after the DREAM Act) were enrolled in the program as of 2017, according to

see **DACA p.2**



# NEWS

## 'Work Force'

lot of people who value education in this program and I see the program growing in all directions." The Manufacturing Academy gives hands-on experience to students in operating computerized machinery to fill a growing labor shortage of skilled machinists. The program has even been featured on CNN's Your Money which can be seen on YouTube. "The goal at the center is training to job placement," says Dr. Douglas Marlott, Dean of Adult Community

Education and Workforce Development, who was a major force in its implementation on campus. "LAVC is proud to be the first and only community college to work with the entire City of Los Angeles Workforce Development system to develop employer-driven programs that lead to meaningful employment," said Endrijonas, "our highly successful career academies have a job placement rate of 86 percent or higher." The Biotech Bridge Training program trains students to

work in the biomedical field and seek employment with several local healthcare companies. On such graduate of the Biotech academy is Seddie McKenzie, who is currently employed by Grifols Biologicals and working on her master's in biotechnology. "After the Biotech Academy I found myself to not only being employed in the industry that I've obtained so much passion for but I've also gained a lot knowledge," said McKenzie. The Workforce Strategy

Center is not only encouraging Angelenos to gain employment but also continue their education. College credit has been added to all the training programs that are offered at the center. For more information on these programs visit [www.lavcjobtraining.org](http://www.lavcjobtraining.org). On the future of the center Marlott said, "There's an opportunity to expand the work of both Workforce and Adult Education through this center."

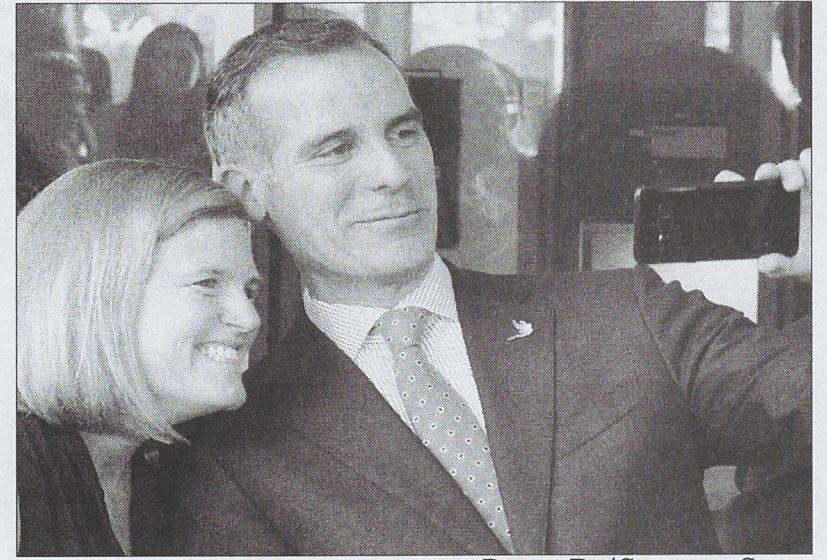


PHOTO BY/SOLOMON SMITH  
SELFIE-Valley President Erika Endrijonas, L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti.



PHOTO BY/ SOLOMON SMITH  
SAFETY- A Valley Student sits across from one of the many emergency call boxes located throughout the campus.

## Campus concerned about safety

Even though Valley is looking out for students, they can still think about their own safety.

BY LON DOMINGUEZ,  
NEWS EDITOR

The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department urges new and returning students to be safe, smart, and alert both in and out of the classroom this semester. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than one in three female rape victims were first raped between the ages of 18 and 24, which is the primary age group of college students. Sexual violence is a serious problem on college campuses and the CDC has information and strategies to help defend

against sexual assaults. There are a wide range of tips provided by the CDC, including letting a trusted person know your location on and off campus, as well as letting that person know what times you will be at those locations. Students should walk in pairs whenever possible and at night park their cars in well lit areas. For more information on prevention tips visit the CDC's website at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov). Other helpful safety tips can be found on the sheriff's station's page on the Valley College website, including making sure your keys are ready before reaching your

vehicle and not leaving food or drinks unattended around strangers. Students should also familiarize themselves with the campus map so as to provide an accurate location of their whereabouts in case of an emergency. Valley also maintains blue phones posted around campus for students to call the sheriff's station directly in the event of an emergency. For the locations for the emergency blue phones, view the campus map at the Valley College website under the About LAVC section. According to the Los Angeles Community College District's web-

site, sexual misconduct "is sexual activity that occurs without consent and includes unwelcome sexual advances and/or requests for sexual favors." The LACCD also defines sexual harassment as any unwanted "verbal, visual, or physical sexual conduct, including obscene letters, notes, posters, or photos." The Valley College sheriff's station, located in the northeast corner of campus, keeps a log and statistics of all crime on campus so students should not feel apprehensive to report even a minor incident as it can provide information to make the campus safer.

## 'DACA'

ing to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Jose Contreras, a Law student at the University of Pepperdine, said, "I feel like my dreams and hopes to be someone in this country has faded away." He went on to say, "[the] Obama administration gave me the opportunity to work and study and now Donald Trump is taking that away." After hearing the news, students, non-profit organizations, and politicians came together in different cities across the country to protest and ask congress for a solution. In a rally that took place in Los Angeles. The result of this decision has put pressure on those who have yet to renew their permits, which must be received before the Oct. 5, 2017 deadline—along with a hefty renewal fee of \$495. These applications are only for "current beneficiaries" with benefits expiring between Sept. 5, 2017 and March 5, 2018, according to the department of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. "They help our economy grow," said Congressman Luis Guterres (D) of Illinois, "and are people that we need." The economic effects of this policy change are also a concern. According to CNBC, the economic impact would be felt unevenly across the country: California, with an estimated 188,000 DACA workers, could suffer a GDP loss of \$11.3 billion a year, and Texas would lose \$6.1 billion in GDP, while North Carolina would lose \$1.9 billion a year. Dreamers will lose their protections on March 6, 2018 unless Congress comes up

with a solution before then. The Trump Administration announced that they will continue to renew two-year work permits as they expire but will stop accepting new applications to the program. Chuck Schumer (D), Senate majority leader and Nancy Pelosi (D), House of Representatives Minority Leader, have been in talks with Trump but the results have been confusing. Trump himself indicated they are closer to a deal, while Speaker of the House, Paul Ryan (R), contradicted Trump saying that there "is no agreement." Contrary to the mixed messages coming out of congress and the White House, many remain optimistic. Valley College sent its own email to its students on the heels of the chancellor's email. It informed students look for the Dreamers Butterfly logo to start appearing in offices across the campus. "We understand that this decision brings uncertainty and is unsettling to our dreamer students," the email from Valley College read. "We want you to know we stand with you, and we have your back." Former Valley College student and UCLA graduate Nancie Rosales said she stands with her Valley family. "DACA came at the mercy of President Barack Obama," Rosales said. "It was something that was heavily protested and fought for...I've been undocumented, I have figured it out, and I'm not afraid."

Cesar Martinez and Jairo Alvarado contributed to this story.

## The Valley Star

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## 'ASU'

tic about getting their message out and getting students to participate in the student union. Joselyn Yang, commissioner of fine arts, is a full-time student and student worker. She is also helping with the effort to recruit and garner interest in the ASU. "It is a lot of responsibility and it is a lot of work, but I don't feel overwhelmed," Yang said, "especially because everyone here has been so helpful." Katona is hoping to get more students interested in the ASU starting with

*"It is a lot of responsibility and it is a lot of work, but I don't feel overwhelmed,"*  
-Joselyn Yang

making the student body aware that the ASU is available for them. His vision for how to do this is to get out and be seen. He is hoping to have at least one or two events a month to make students more aware of the existence of the ASU, and hopefully, spark some interest in student government. "I really feel like the biggest issue is advertising," says Katona. "We can get more people by simply talking to them and having more events."

This strategy is also how he intends to get the word out about the vacant executive positions of the ASU. Katona and the other four officers intend to go to class rooms and talk to students directly. A special election is scheduled to be held on Oct. 18-19 in Monarch Hall and the ASU. The deadline for candidates to apply is Sept. 22, with a briefing about the rules to be held on Sept. 27 in the Sky Box Conference Room. Last year all of the community colleges changed the voting system online voting. The online system was paid for by the Los Angeles Community College District in an effort to include more students in the voting process but had many problems of its own. If no candidates apply for the president or vice-president position, Katona is not worried. Katona says that he would be willing, and able, to shoulder the responsibility of the president's position if necessary and has faith that, if it happens, he would be able to handle it. "I would take over the president position and drop the treasurer position if they would let me."



# OPINION

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## LACCD Chancellor supports students affected by DACA

In a move of solidarity the LACCD sent out a letter showing support for its DACA students who have been left in limbo after a desicions to repeal DACA.

OPINION BY  
SOLOMON SMITH  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

President Donald J. Trump repealed the Deferred Action for Childhood Act (DACA) putting hundreds of thousands of young people in peril of being deported, but the Los Angeles Community College District has sent out a letter in support of those affected. LACCD has not forgotten about its immigrant population and the letters from the Los Angeles Community College District Chancellor, Dr. Francisco C. Rodriguez and Valley College was the right thing to do. "I want to reassure you that LACCD—as a public higher education institution—will not stand back and allow our brothers and sisters to lose their right to a high quality and affordable education," said Rodriguez in the letter. DACA was enacted in June 2012 by an executive order by then president Barack Obama. It allowed those who immigrated to America illegally as children, to apply for work visas and to reside without threat of deportation as long as they were registered with the program. Many Dreamers came out of the shadows and registered based on

this promise and Trump's actions. A poll by NBC News found that about 59 percent of all Americans would prefer to see DACA continue in some form. In this issue, Trump has fallen behind most Americans. So why is the president always on the opposite end of the moral spectrum—because he is, at heart, a selfish person. His America first rhetoric at the United Nations is a great example. The lack of good moral decisions have been plaguing the White House since the inauguration of President Donald J. Trump. Trump has, from the outset, been the worst example of how a President should conduct himself personally and publicly. His racist views and refusal to rebuke racist supporters who have been enfolded into the Trump camp have been documented by CNN, The Washington Post, and most damningly, his own words. "He's a Mexican," said Trump about a Mexican-American judge who was born in Indiana, on CNN. "We're building a wall between here and Mexico. The answer is, he is giving us very unfair rulings — rulings that people can't even believe." He has referred to Mexican immigrants as "rapists" and attempted to bar transsexual persons from military service, without

evidence or cause, and to the consternation of military leaders. He has even accused the first African-American president of not being a citizen, long after all evidence proved otherwise. In short, there is no lack of evidence for the moral void that lies within our president. This then, should leave no one surprised when he attacks, through twitter and mandate, those who often have very little in the way of defense. There is nothing wrong with being a selfish person when you are the CEO of a company, but as a world leader, the good of all of citizens and the people within your borders is the most important thing to consider, often at the expense of being liked. When a president cannot be bothered to condemn what is wrong, but respond to detractors in petty tweets, it is no wonder that this pettiness would bleed into the policies of the White House. We must not allow the weaknesses of Trump's character affect our character as a nation. Trump would have the country move backward in its thinking. Back to a time when we incarcerated Asian-Americans without due process or barred them from the country entirely. He would have us forget when "No Irish dogs" signs hung in the



PHOT BY/ LUIS ROMERO

PROTESTERS- Protesters stand against President Donald J. Trump's decision to repeal DACA.

windows of businesses in New York. He would have us forget the little we have learned from our own shameful mistakes and perpetrate them again against another group of outsiders. This is Trump's vision for America. The only way to make sure that Trump's vision does not become a reality is to demonstrate courage like that of the LACCD's simple letter of compassion to

a scared group of adoptive Americans who are, according to the letter, "... integral and valued members of our LACCD family." When American leadership is honest with itself and takes responsibility for its country, it becomes clear that waiting for moral leadership or guidance from an office that is so bereft of the concept of right and wrong is not the way to move

the country forward. We move forward by keeping our promises and having the courage to stand up, even against the president of the United States. LACCD made a bold statement with its letter but more than that, they showed that having the courage to do the right thing is an obligation that leadership must fulfill.

## Dodgers fans left in dark as team makes run to October



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY HARRISON MCQUINN

Dodger fans who are left in the dark with the Spectrum Cable deal are finding other ways to watch.

OPINION BY  
HARRISON MCQUINN

After a rough finish to a nearly record-breaking season, the Dodgers seem to be back as they approach the playoffs. They have Cody Bellinger's historic rookie season, Justin Turner's nearly .350 batting average, and contributions from almost every position on the roster. But fans without Spectrum have been left in the dark. It's been four years since the Dodgers concocted an exclusive deal with Spectrum Cable, an agreement that has left over half of Southern California without the ability to watch the Blue Crew during their record-breaking season. Disappointed fans

without Spectrum have turned to local restaurants, free online streams or bought tickets. About this time last year, Cox Communications, along with other pay-tv providers, refused to carry the channel and said, "We hope we can come to an agreement... that does not burden our customers with excessive price increases." With the exception of ESPN's national game of the week, the regional markets are controlled by television contracts that teams have sold to the highest bidder. As for the fans? They will be missing clubhouse celebrations as the Dodgers fight for their first World Series title since 1988. Blue fanatics are left to pay the monthly fee of \$164 for

Spectrum or settle for the handful of Dodger games ESPN. Dodger enthusiasts around the country have also begun heading to local bars and restaurants to get their Blue fix. Bar One Tap Room off the corner of Whittett Avenue and Burbank Boulevard is the closest bar to Valley College with Spectrum and a great spot to catch the game if you don't mind watching without sound. Restaurants such as Buffalo Wild Wings and BJ's Restaurant also show the games. Some fans are reaching for their computers to catch a free stream of the games. Streamers are third parties that pay for MLB packages and then share the games with others for free. The final option takes more

effort, but sits you in front of the field. Dodger tickets have been historically cheaper than seats at the Staples Center. You can pick up tickets for the Dodgers as low as 10 bucks. With tickets that low, it's clear why LA leads the MLB in total and average attendance this season, as reported by Sports Illustrated. Despite the time and effort fans are making to catch the Dodgers, tension continues to brew in Los Angeles over the trouble it takes to watch. According to Baseball Commissioner, Robert Manfred, the cable deal has 21 more years, but the Dodger blackout may not.

## VALLEY VIEW

What do you think of President Trump ending DACA in the United States?

By Savannah Simmons and Aki Takashiro with photos by Alexandrina Alonso



"I don't think he thought it through, he doesn't know what condition they are being sent back to..."

- Taylor Sims



"I'm honestly disgusted. A significant part of my family is involved in the program."

- Casey Berschmidt



"It's foolish, [L.A.] is a centralized location of the DACA program. There will be economic repercussions."

-Daniel Song



# VALLEY LIFE

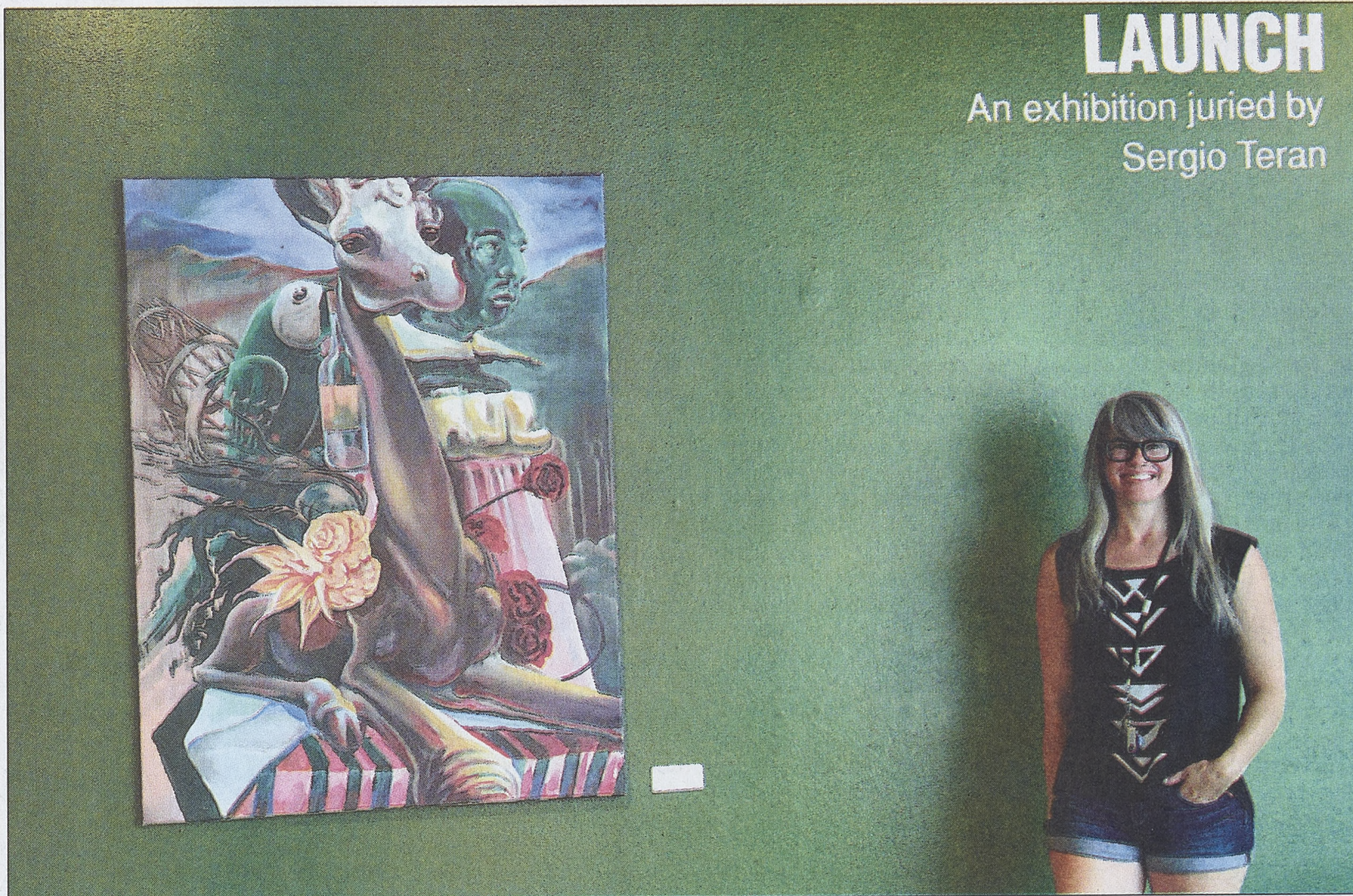
## Valley College art exhibit launches new artists forward

Fifty three lucky art students' works were showcased at the Launch art exhibit this fall displaying the diverse talents of the on-campus art community.

By JAMIE GARCIA  
STAFF WRITER

Photographs, sculptures, paintings and many more forms of art are showcased at the re-opening of the Launch Art exhibit which will be running for a limited time this fall. The Launch Exhibit recommences for the Fall 2017 and will be running for 10 days from Aug. 28 till Sept. 7 and was open to all students and the public. The exhibit featured a wide range of artwork with different styles, textures and dimensions from students. Showcased were photographs, sculptures, ceramics, drawings and a video piece. The participating students were allowed to submit up to three pieces of artwork. There were over 250 submissions and only 57 students were chosen by Juror Sergio Teran. "We wanted an outsider's perspective, and Teran was a good fit," said Valley Art Gallery Director Jenene Nagy. Sergio Teran is a contemporary Mexican-American artist. Teran's work includes self-portraits, portraits, luchadors, mixed-media, surrealism,

and figurative art. He was a former Valley art professor and is currently a professor at Cerritos College. His style of art is self-described as "visceral art work that is inspired by media, personal experience and art." "I am a storyteller and in my work you will find a spectrum of painting," Teran says on his website serigoteran.com. Valley student Analuisa Curiel's artwork, a sculpture called, "De la Muerte, a la Vida," was showcased at the exhibit. Curiel sculptured the female form, starting from the neck and ending right above the pubic bone featuring decaying holes and maggots. She spent eight hours a day for two weeks working on her sculpture. "I was going for the whole attract repulsive thing," Curiel says when asked about the theme of her artwork, "like when you first see it you're like 'ooh, let's go look at that' and then you get closer and your like what the heck is that." Students who were taking the art gallery management class on campus were responsible for designing the exhibit. This gave them an opportunity to get a hands-on



PROUD ARTIST- Jenene Nagy, Valley art director stands near an art piece on display in the exhibit.

experience of opening and running an art exhibit. This event also gave the art students a professional platform to experience their first time being showcased. The showing was

sponsored by the Carter Sexton Artist Materials. "This exhibit showcases a lot of different artwork that I enjoyed and I was shocked to see how professional it all looked,"

said Valley student Leydy Velasquez, who attended the exhibit. "I can't wait for their next exhibit," she added. The exhibit is located in the Art building, and

is open on Monday and Thursdays—admission is free for everyone.

## Sung brings experience to Valley athletic training

Valley gets a new athletic trainer who is ready for the upcoming season.

By SAVANNAH SIMMONS  
STAFF WRITER

Working through multiple concussions as a teen, Jon Sung developed an interest in the practice of sports medicine and became an athletic trainer to help others. "It's a lot of work; they keep me busy and running around all the time," said Sung, talking about the football players whose season just started. "But they're all great guys." Sung is the newest member of Valley College's athletic training team, coming from his previous post at Chapman University where he also served as an athletic trainer. Athletic trainers help prevent injuries on the field and lead athletes through recovery

when they are injured. As a teenager, Sung played football and suffered three concussions, which required him to receive multiple treatments from his high-school trainers. Sung gained experience during his time at Esperanza High School in Orange County. At Esperanza he learned from Chapman University trainers, and then later earned his bachelor's degree from Chapman University, and then his master's from the University of Florida in sports medicine. Sung has interned for the NFL's 49ers and recently traveled to Mexico with the USA Women's Volleyball Team. "That one was the last off my list," said Sung, making a check mark through the air. "I've [worked with] high school,

community college, university, NFL players, and now an Olympic team." With Sung's experience in working for different types of teams, he says he likes community college the best. Out of all the sports, football is Sung's favorite because he genuinely loves the game but basketball and water polo are his favorite to train due to the fast-paced nature. In an athletic training room, many different athletes with different personalities are constantly bustling in and out. Sung enjoys the array of students, and if you take a peek into Valley's training room, you can see him smiling while helping a number of athletes around him.



PHOTO BY/ SOLOMON SMITH

NEW TRAINER - Sung is the latests addition to the Valley athletic team.

## Venger moves to mound

A change in the softball program brings a familiar face to the top.



PHOTO BY/ SOLOMON SMITH

NEW COACH- Venger finishes the season with the Valley College soccer team.

By VICENTE VITELA  
STAFF WRITER

Students will be surprised this spring when Greg Venger switches his nameplate from soccer to softball coach as he transitions over to the diamond this spring.

Out of five potential candidates Venger stood out because of his reliability, and consistency in generating great recruiting classes. He identifies himself as a player's coach and has a strong desire to see athletes succeed.

He plans to set a practice schedule that will benefit the student-athletes.

"I think having knowledge of the LAVC student athlete as well as my passion to help students helped me get the job," Venger said.

Venger replaces longtime head coach Frankie Garcia. He has coached baseball and softball at Cleveland high school, and is serving as the school's athletic director. Venger has been at Valley for a handful of years and led the lady Monarch's soccer

team to the playoffs last season.

"He has a great background in the sport and knows how to get good recruits," Athletic Director Jim Fenwick said.

Fenwick was clear that the job was not handed to Venger but that he was the best candidate for the job. The plan is to have Venger finish the soccer season before moving to softball. Coach Greg Venger is in his final season coaching women's soccer before he heads over to the softball field.



# VALLEY LIFE

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## Valley College's Mestas called up to watch over NFL

Valley College Athletic trainer moonlights for the NFL and has the power to stop games to keep players safe.

By SAVANNAH SIMMONS  
STAFF WRITER

Dennis Mestas can't change the course of mighty rivers or bend steel with his bare hands, but Valley College's head athletic trainer can stop the NFL. Mestas is a substitute spotter for the NFL, and can be found at many Chargers home games. Spotters sit in the press box and keep an eye out for injuries on the field. The NFL added a second spotter this year, one for home and one for visiting teams, and Mestas spotted his first contest in a pre-season game when the Chargers faced the Seattle Seahawks. "I used to tell my class when we would learn about spotters, that I wish I could be one. Now," Mestas said, holding his hands out as if to say look at me. In his day job, the kinesiology instructor helps students work through many different types of injuries, and more importantly, helps them through

recovery. Now, he takes that experience to the StubHub Center, home of the Los Angeles Chargers. During the game, he is looking for an injury, a concussion, or a player that needs medical attention. His view from the press box gives him a better vantage point than the training staff on the field. In addition, he has access to replay monitors to determine if a player needs to be removed from the game. If he spots something, Mestas can contact the trainers on the field, but also ask the referees to stop the game. All injuries are recorded and put on a flash drive for the team to analyze the mechanism of injury or the MOI. The data is used to determine if the injury was a result of field conditions, equipment, or another player. A committee also studies the data to come up with safety suggestions for the league. In the Chargers home opener, and Mestas' first game as a spotter, there were two injuries on the



PHOTO BY / SOLOMON SMITH

IN HIS ENVIRONMENT- Mestas keeps an eye out for Valley college athletes and acts as a watchdog for injuries for the NFL.

SeaHawks side. One was a shoulder injury where wide receiver Paul Richardson walked off of the field himself, and the other was safety Jordan Simone, a knee injury, who needed assistance. "The players don't always come out of the game when they're injured," said Mestas. "It's their job,

they're making money." The doubling of spotters in the NFL may have been the result of the number of concussions NFL players have been suffering and the publicity that has come along with it. Concussions come from blows to the head causing the brain to swell, and multiple concussions can

lead to Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy or CTE. Many former NFL football players have suffered from CTE. The disease slowly kills brain cells over time causing headaches, memory loss, dementia, speech impediments and depression. Mestas' next spotting assignment is Sept. 17

when the Miami Dolphins visit the Chargers. Mestas is hoping to bring a little bit of the NFL back to Valley. "I'd love to eventually have our own spotters at Valley," said Mestas. "It could even be someone from our own athletic training staff up there in the press box."

## Earthquake book puts Valley professor in the spotlight

Dr. Abraham Hoffman is an all-around historian and makes contributions on and off campus.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ABRAHAM HOFFMAN

SURVIVAL TIPS-Professor Abraham Hoffman's book provides readers with tips to survive major quakes.

By CESAR MARTINEZ  
STAFF WRITER

Valley College professor, Abraham Hoffman, balances his teaching, research, and writing with the release of his latest book: "California's Deadliest Earthquakes, A History."

Regarding the three major earthquakes in California, The professor's book connects the 1994 Northridge earthquake, 1933 Long Beach earthquake and 1906 San Francisco earthquake. In addition, his book includes valuable tips towards surviving a major tremor through personal accounts, interviews and photographs.

"Flashlights are good but lanterns are better," Hoffman stated during the interview in his office, "two and a half gallons of water, canned food and a can opener.. intuitive things like that save you from dying."

Dr. Hoffman has been an adjunct instructor at Valley College since 1974, teaching History during the evening courses. He is an instructor for History of the Americas 1 as well as History of California and Pacific Coast this semester. Hoffman commented about his history with the LAVC.

"One of the joys is the technology. If someone told me about this five years ago, I'd say it was science fiction."

Since his start at Valley College, he has written a selection of books including Unwanted Mexican Americans in the Great Depression: Repatriation Pressures, 1929-1939 (1974), Vision or Villainy: Origins of the Owens Valley-Los Angeles Water Controversy (1981), An Oklahoma Tragedy: The Shooting of the Mexican Students, 1931 (1987), California Then and Now (1996), and Mono Lake: From Dead Sea to Environmental Treasure

(2014) and collectively contains around 70 articles and 200 book reviews to his name.

He is also a member of the Los Angeles City Historical Society, the Western Writers of America, Organization of American Historians and the Western History Association to name a few.

Hoffman finds the time to enjoy his other memberships as well. A month since it's founding in 1963--and a night of cruising down the sunset strip-- Hoffman and some buddies decided to walk into the Magic Castle in Hollywood. Hoffman has since been a charter associate lifelong member.

Professor Hoffman continues his passion for History through writing, collaborating, and teaching as his preference of Valley College over his other affairs remains clear.

"Those organizations don't have meetings every week."

## Gas prices stabilize after series of natural disasters hit U.S.

After a series of major natural disasters, gas prices spiked and then later began to level out. However, prices are still much higher than last year.

By AMY NUNGARAY  
STAFF WRITER

A few weeks since Hurricane Harvey, gas prices have stabilized, but they are still an average of 44 cents higher than a year ago. However, gas prices have skyrocketed nationally due to the hurricane's destructive forces.

Harvey left tens of thousands in turmoil searching for refuge and has expanded to affecting everyday life by the evacuation of gas and oil production on the coastline of Texas. The most noticeable increase averaged 18 cents per gallon nationally, according to gas buddy, started Labor

Day weekend.

The average price for a gallon during that time in Los Angeles was \$3.18.

"It took me \$35 to fill up my tank and now it is costing me \$45," said Valley student Kayla Gil. "I couldn't believe how much more expensive it is in a matter of a week."

Gas prices are expected to lower within the next few weeks with the distilleries re-opening.

The rise of gas prices has left students looking for alternative modes of transportation. Depending on the length of their commute, some students have been traveling by bike, metro, or carpooling.

"I wanted to help the environment and help my

wallet, so I started taking the metro, said Van Nuys resident Bianca Cruz. "It was easier than I thought and I have been saving money at the same time. It is a win-win situation."

Gas prices are considerably higher than usual but in Oct. 2012, the Los Angeles area reached an all time record of having gas prices average \$4.66. Metro riding statistics reported that its highest ridership were in the years of 2011-2013 in the past decade in relation to the high prices of fuel. The metro is in progress for expanding their tracks to make public transportation more appealing to help those who are looking for alternative modes of travel.

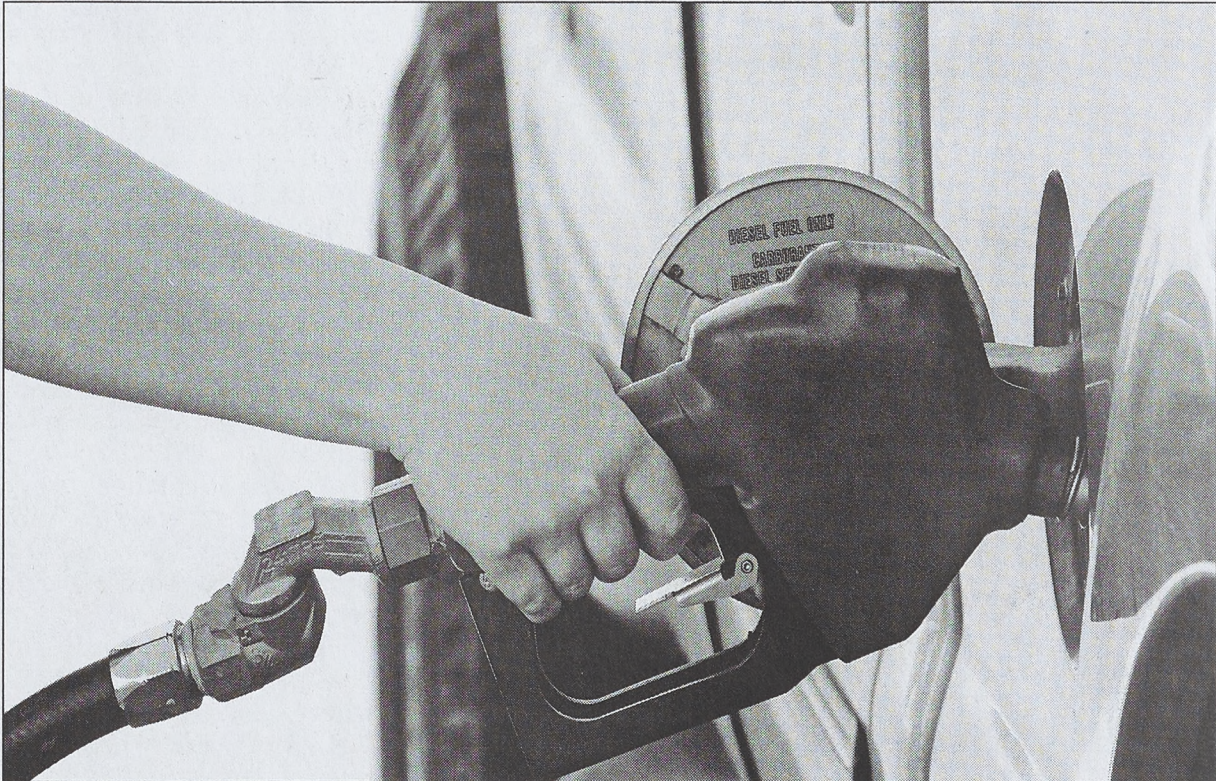


PHOTO BY / SSGT JASON COLBERT, USAF

PRICES SPIKED-Consumers continue to pay the price at the pump and consider alternative routes.



## SPORTS

## Donkeys and money policy

Major changes for the next NFL season are going into effect for both safety of the players and to



PHOTO BY/ SEBASTIAN MINO-BUCHELI  
VALLEY SCORES-Valley College's Carson Arnett stays focused while scoring one of many goals during the game against Fullerton.

By VICENTE VITELA AND  
JAMIE GARCIA  
STAFF WRITERS

Valley College men's water polo team wiped out Fullerton College 23-7, with Louis Brunner and Carson Arnett scoring a combined 11 goals to improve the Monarchs record to 2-3. The 2016 Western Conference champion

Monarchs played like champions, using their size and speed early on that saw them end the first half by a score of 12-4. Louis Brunner led the scoring for the Monarchs aided by four consecutive unanswered goals within a two-minute period. Goalie Tobias Jensen did his best Shaquille O' Neal impression with eight blocks in the first half. Jensen

blocked every shot with authority that was heard and felt by the Hornets. "The boys have been executing what we've been practicing on and it showed today," said Head Coach Jim McMillan. The second half saw more of the same, with the Monarchs sticking to, and executing their game plan. Arnett was the leading Monarchs scorer of the second half with three

goals in a five-minute stretch. The backup goalie Anthony Gevorkian played in the second half of the contest and was equally as impressive. He collected six blocked shots, only allowed three goals, and prevented Hornets from making any comeback. "Looks like we could win state this year," McMillan said.

## SPORTS MINUTE

## Crumpton becomes Bulldog

Ahkil Crumpton led Valley to division championship and now plays for Georgia Bulldogs.



PHOTOGRAPH PUBLIC DOMAIN  
D1 PLAYER-Crumpton jumps from Community College to Division 1.

By HARRISON MCQUINN  
SPORTS EDITOR

Coming off an American Division championship with Valley College last year, the Monarch receiver who ran for 1,554 all-purpose yards and a kick return for 95 yards is now playing Division I football at the University of Georgia.

Ahkil Crumpton totaled 7 touchdowns and a 40-yard average in his 11 appearances for the Monarchs. Because of those numbers, Crumpton was recruited by James Coley, the current wide-receiver coach for the Bulldogs.

"[Ahkil] catches everything that's thrown to him," Georgia Head Coach Kirby Smart said during the pre-season.

It was Crumpton's game against Santa Barbara, where he finished with 124 yards and three kick returns that caught the eye of the 12-time SEC conference champs.

Although Crumpton is new to the Peach State, he was welcomed by familiar faces. The Bulldogs' running back D'andre Swift and wide receiver Mark Webb come from a nearby suburb in Philadelphia and both know Crumpton.

One of Crumpton's childhood friends, Romeo Gunt, who still plays at Valley, said: "I've known him since we was 5 years old. He made me a better player."

Although Crumpton is happy to be playing for the Bulldog's he has bigger goals, saying on Twitter: "Some people think when you get to this point you made it. I've seen so many settle for less, that's how talent gets wasted."

Georgia is currently ranked 15 by the AP pre-season polls and is 4-0 this season. The Bulldogs face the Volunteers Saturday at Neyland Stadium in Knoxville Tennessee with a 12:30 kickoff time.

## SPORTS CORNER

## Melo trade latest attempt to catch Warriors

NBA teams making trade looking to close the gap on the Golden State Warriors.



Coming off the Warriors' nearly perfect playoff run and fifth NBA title, the rest of the league looked to reinvent their rosters in one of the most fruitful off-seasons for free agents. "It's a weapons race in the NBA and you're either in the weapons race or on the sidelines," Houston General Manager Daryl Morey said. And after their latest title, the Warriors still look like they have the most weapons. They resigned two-time MVP Steph Curry to a five-year, \$201 million deal, and inked Finals MVP Kevin Durant on a discount, and resigned Andre Iguodala and Shaun Livingston. Kyrie Irving forced the Cavaliers to trade him and they partnered with the Celtics, which saw Boston send all-star point guard Isaiah Thomas, Jae Crowder, Ante Zizic, and the Nets' unprotected 2018 first-round pick in return for Irving. Cleveland resigned Kyle Korver and added 2011 MVP Derrick Rose, who has faced an injury-ridden career. Rose averaged a total of 32.5 minutes in his 64 starts during his Knicks 2016-2017 season. Before the Irving trade, the Celtics made a big-summer splash by signing free agent Gordon Hayward to a four-year, \$128 million contract. The organization also cashed in on a third overall pick in the 2017 draft gaining Duke forward Jayson Tatum. The Raptors had an even tougher playoff series against Cleveland, which ended in a sweep. Toronto most notably resigned all-star Kyle Lowry and Serge Ibaka. They also picked up free agent C. J. Miles. Although the Western Conference (Jazz) lost Hayward to the East, they gained Paul George as well as Jimmy Butler. The Pacers traded George to OKC in return for Victor Oladipo and Domantas Sabonis. And in the NBA's most recent trade, the New York Knicks sent perennial all-star Carmelo Anthony to OKC for Enes Kanter, Doug McDermott and the Chicago Bulls' 2018 second-round pick. Butler also saw the end of his 2011-2017 run with the Bulls, turning over a new leaf in Minnesota. The Bulls walked away with Kris Dunn, a 2017 No. 7 pick and two-time NBA Slam Dunk Contest champion Zach LaVine. Los Angeles has seen some exciting changes for both the Clippers and Lakers. This summer marked the free agency of franchise player Blake Griffin, whom the Clippers resigned and the end of Chris Paul era. In one of the more blockbuster trades of the offseason, Houston acquired 32-year-old Paul in exchange for Patrick Beverley, Lou Williams, cash considerations and a protected first-round pick next year. The top prospect of the draft, Lonzo Ball, signed with the Lakers following his father's demands to be in L.A. With Ball now starting PG, the Lakers waved farewell to 2015 2nd overall pick D'Angelo Russell. The purple and gold traded Russell as well as Timofey Mozgov (and his 4-year \$64 million contract) for Nets center Brook Lopez and 2017 No. 27 pick.



ILLUSTRATION BY/ HARRISON MCQUINN  
POSSIBLE FUTURE- goals during the game against Fullerton.